



UNITED NATIONS
FOOD SYSTEMS
SUMMIT 2021

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

**Pre-recorded Remarks by the Special Envoy
On the occasion of the Opening of the Commission on
Population and Development Annual Session
19 April 2021**

Your Excellencies, colleagues, and friends, let me start by thanking the organizers of this event, the Commission on Population and Development, for inviting me to join you in this annual session.

People lie at the heart of sustainable development goals as well as the creation of equitable food systems.

Continued population growth will substantially increase the demand for food supplies, and require measures that guarantee sufficient, safe, and nutritious food.

The UN projects that our population will grow from the current 7 billion to about 9.7 billion by 2050. Action is required to step up all efforts to transform our food system and stay ahead of this growth.

The Secretary General launched the Food Systems Summit to catalyse action and get us back on track. The Summit's key priority is to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, while addressing how we produce, process, and consume food and the impact all these would have on people, planet and prosperity.

At today's annual CPD session, our focus is to understand the relationship between population, food and nutritional security, and sustainable development.

All these factors working in unison will influence and contribute towards the 2030 Agenda. As you go into these discussions, I would like you to keep a few things in mind:

One - There is sufficient scientific evidence that transforming our food systems is one of the most impactful ways to accelerate achievement of SDGs. Therefore: the sessions you will have, have the potential to provide key insights to the work of the Commission.

Two - People are at the centre of all five action tracks of our food systems whether it's access to safe and nutritious food, sustainable consumption, nature positive production, equitable livelihoods and building resilience, given climate change and all these other things.

Three - People will determine what needs to be done, the changes that need to be made, the decisions that need to take place, and the call for commitment, contributions and action that must prioritise how we safeguard our food systems.

This is why the Secretary General envisions The Food Systems Summit as a 'People's Summit'. All stakeholders are invited to engage through National Dialogues currently taking place all around the world.

The last point I would like to make, our food system and their value chains have potential to help us build back better, and to recover from the current COVID-19 pandemic.

I encourage you as key stakeholders to engage with the National Food Systems Dialogues, participate in action tracks and hold bold conversations as you discuss the impact of population and their influence on our food systems.

After all, this is a 'Solutions Summit' too, and we will be waiting for your ideas.

The Summit is a critical moment to catalyse ideas, and action for people, planet and shared prosperity.

Let us seize it to define our future, the future of our children and that of our planet.

Thank you for inviting me.

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